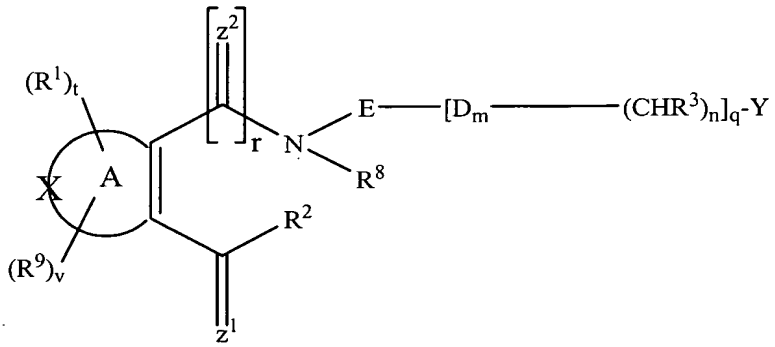
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (I) or a salt or a physiologically functional derivative thereof:



(I)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic non-aromatic ring system containing 4 to 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may optionally be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, SO_2, NR^4 or CH_2;

[[Z]] z^1 and [[Z]] z^2 are, independently, O, S, or NR^5;

R^1 is independently $-CO_2R''$, $-SO_3H$, $-CONR^*R''$, $-CR''O$, $-SO_2-NR^*R''$, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2-R''$, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, $-NR''-CO_2-R'$, $-NR''-CO-R^*$, $-NR''-SO_2-R'$, $-O-CO-R^*$, $-O-CO_2-R^*$, $-O-CO-NR^*R''$, cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^9 is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R''$, -CONHR'', CR''O, $-SO_2NR''$, -NR''-CO-haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, NR''-SO_2-haloalkyl, -NR''-SO_2-alkyl, -SO_2-alkyl, -NR''-CO-alkyl, -CN,

alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

R^2 is H, OR^6, or NHR^7;

R^3 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkoxy, O-aryl, O-cycloalkyl, halogen, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl, or S-cycloalkyl;

R^4 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl;

R^5 is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl, or aryl;

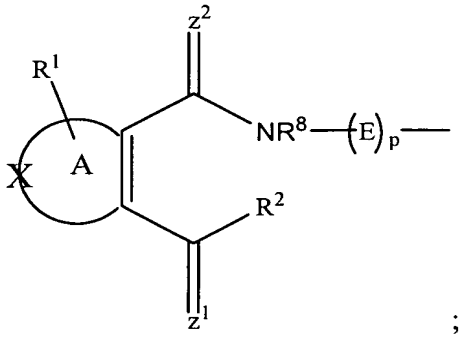
R^6 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, arylalkyl, alkylaryl, alkoxyalkyl, acylmethyl, (acyloxy)alkyl, non-symmetrical (acyloxy)alkyldiester, or dialkylphosphate;

R^7 is H, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl, cycloalkyl, or O-cycloalkyl;

R^8 is hydrogen or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$ or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system and which contains at least one aromatic ring or



;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

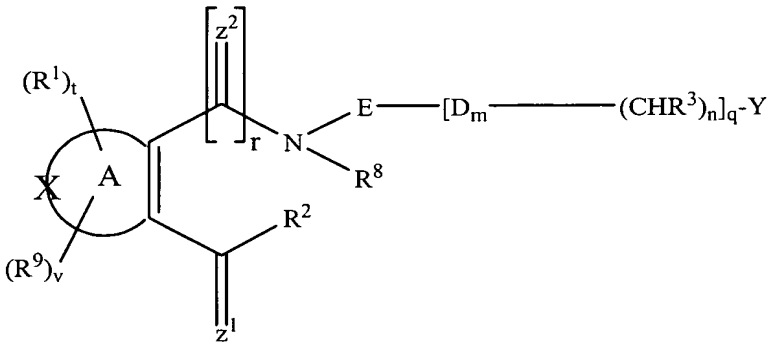
r is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

t is 1 to 3; and

v is 0 to 3.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (Ia) or a salt or a physiologically function derivative thereof,



(Ia)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic non-aromatic ring system containing 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, SO_2, NR^4, or CH_2;

[[Z]] z^1 and [[Z]] z^2 are, independently, O, S, or NR^5;

R^1 is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy $-CO_2R``$, $-SO_3H$, -OH, $-CONR^*R``$, $-CR``O$, $-SO_2-NR^*R``$, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2-R``$, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, $--NR``-CO_2-R`$, $-NR``-CO-R^*$, $-NR``-SO_2-R`$, $-O-CO-R^*$, $-O-CO_2-R^*$, $-O-CO-NR^*R``$; cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, - SH, heteroaryl, or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R``$, $-CONHR``$, $CR``O$, $-SO_2NR``$, $-NR``-CO-$haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, $NR``-SO_2-$haloalkyl, $-NR``-SO_2-$alkyl, $-SO_2-$alkyl, $-NR``-CO-$alkyl, -CN, alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

R^2 is NHOH or R^2 together with the nitrogen atom which is attached to R^8 form a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring with the proviso that R^2 is $-[CH_2]$, and R^8 is absent;

R^3 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl; O-cycloalkyl, halogen; aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl; S-cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

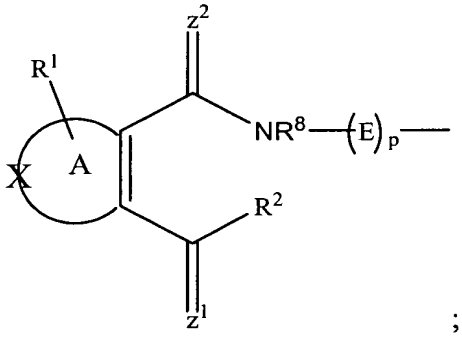
R^4 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^5 is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl or aryl;

R^8 is hydrogen, or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring or



;

m is 0 or1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

r is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

s is 0 to 2; and

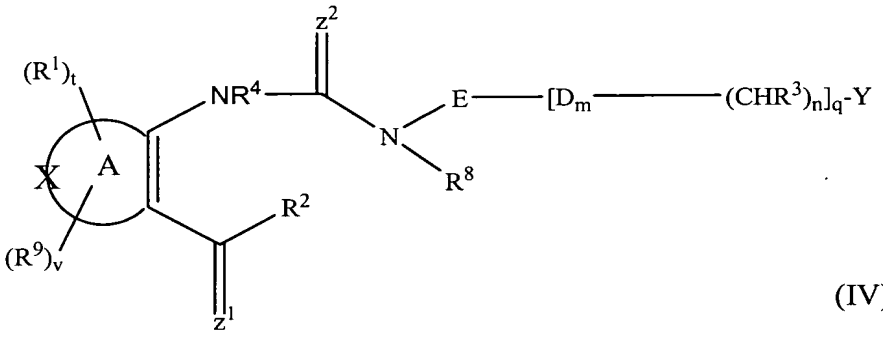
t is 0 to 3;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:

compounds wherein ring A is an unsubstituted carbocycle containing six carbon atoms and one double bond between the CZ^1 and CZ^2-substituents, [[Z]] $\underline{z}^1$=[[Z]] $\underline{z}^2$=O, and s is 0; 1,3,5-Tribenzyl-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, 1,3-Dibenzyl-5-(4-methoxy-benzyl)-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, 1,3-Bis-(4methoxybenzyl)-5-benzyl-2,4,6-trioxopyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole, and 1,3-Tris-(4-methoxybenzyl)-2,4,6-trioxo-pyrrolo[3,4-d]imidazole.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A compound of the general formula (IV) or a salt or physiologically functional derivative thereof,



(IV)

wherein

A is a non-heterocyclic, non-aromatic ring system containing 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 carbon atoms, wherein the ring system comprises at least one double bond and wherein one or more of the carbon atoms in the ring represented by X may be carbonyl (C=O);

D is O, S, SO_2, NR^4, or CH_2;

[[Z]] z^1 and [[Z]] z^2 are, independently, O, S, or NR^5;

R^1 is independently H, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy $-CO_2R``$, $-SO_3H$, -OH, -CONR*R``, -CR``O, $-SO_2$-NR*R``, $-NO_2$, $-SO_2$-R``, -SO-R*, -CN, alkoxy, alkylthio, aryl, -NR``-C02-R`, -NR``-CO-R*, -NR``-SO2-R`, -O-CO-R*, - O-CO2-R*, -O-CO NR*R``; cycloalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxyalkylamino, heteroaryl, -SH, or alkyl;

R* is independently H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl or heteroaryl;

R` is independently H, $-CO_2R``$, -CONHR``, CR``O, $-SO_2NR``$, -NR``-CO-haloalkyl, $-NO_2$, NR``-SO_2-haloalkyl, -NR``-$SO_2$-alkyl, $-SO_2$-alkyl, -NR``-CO-alkyl, -CN, alkyl, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, alkoxy, -OH, -SH, alkylthio, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkylamino, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, aryl, arylalkyl or heteroaryl;

R`` is independently hydrogen, haloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl or aminoalkyl;

R^2 is H or OR^6, NHR^7, NR^7OR^7 or R^2 together with the nitrogen atom which is attached to R^8 form a 6 membered heterocyclic ring with the proviso that R^2 is $-[CH_2]_8$ and R^8 is absent;

R^3 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl; O-cycloalkyl, halogen, aminoalkyl, alkylamino, hydroxylamino, hydroxylalkyl, haloalkyloxy, heteroaryl, alkylthio, S-aryl; S-cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, or haloalkyl;

R^4 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl;

R^5 is H, OH, alkoxy, O-aryl, alkyl or aryl;

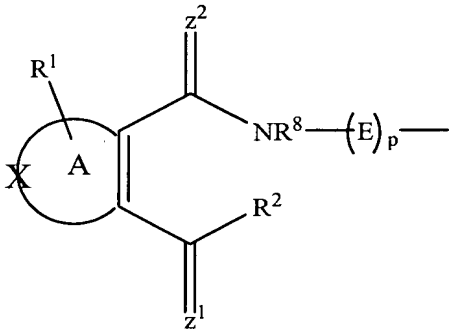
R^6 is H, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, alkylaryl, alkoxyalkyl, acylmethyl, (acyloxy)alkyl, non-symmetrical (acyloxy)alkyldiester, or dialkylphosphate;

R^7 is H, OH, alkyl, aryl, alkoxy, O-aryl, cycloalkyl, or O-cycloalkyl;

R^8 is hydrogen, or alkyl;

E is an alkyl or cycloalkyl group which is substituted by $[D_m—(CHR_3)_n]_qY$ or a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring;

Y is hydrogen, halogen, haloalkyl, haloalkyloxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, a monocyclic or polycyclic substituted or unsubstituted ring system which contains at least one aromatic ring or



m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

p is 0 or 1;

q is 0 or 1;

s is 0 to 2; and

t is 0 to 3;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded: 5,5-Dimethyl-4-phenyl-2-(3-phenyl-ureido)-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Chlorophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-[[ftiran]] furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Methoxylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Methylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-[[fume]] furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 2[3-(4-Nitrophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4-phenyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2-(3-phenyl-ureido)-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-chlorophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic-[[aeid]] acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-m[[o]]ethoxyphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2 [3-(4-methylphenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester, or 4-(4-Chlorophenyl)-2[3-(4-nitrophenyl-ureido)]-5,5-dimethyl-4,5-dihydro-furan-3-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

the compound of claim 1; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

the compound of Claim 2, and

a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claims 7-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method for treating a disease associated with the expression of dihydroorotate dehydrogenase ("DHODH") comprising administering an amount of the compound of Claim 1 effective to inhibit the activity of DHODH to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A method for treating a disease associated with the expression of DHODH comprising administering an amount of the compound of Claim 2 effective to inhibit the activity of DHODH to a subject in need thereof.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 19, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatism, an acute immunological disorder, an autoimmune disease, a disease caused by malignant cell proliferation, an inflammatory disease, a disease that is caused by a protozoal infestation, a disease that is caused by a viral infection, *Pneumocystis carinii*, fibrosis, uveitis, rhinitis, asthma and athropathy.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 19, comprising administering a compound of the general formula (I) or a salt thereof.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is compound of the general formula (I) in free form.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is a salt of a compound of general formula (I).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, which is a physiologically functional derivative of a compound of general formula (I).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains five carbon atoms.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains a single double bond between the carbon atoms carrying substituents Cz^1 and Cz^2.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein ring A contains a single X group which is carbonyl (C=O).

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein none of the carbon atoms is replaced by X, which is carbonyl.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^1 is OH, OCH_3, SH, CO_2H, SO_3H or tetrazole.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^9 is H.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^2 is [[OH or]] OR^6.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein R^8 is H or methyl.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein Y is optionally substituted phenyl.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein D is S or O and m = 1.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The compound of Claim 1, wherein z^1 and z^2 are both O.